

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



The Story of Nineteen Twenty-three

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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A Personal Letter to Our Members and Friends

THERE are probably more than 20,000 members of the American Bible Society throughout the world. Some of these are Life Directors by virtue of a contribution of \$150 or more at one time; some are Life Members by virtue of a contribution of \$50 or more at one time; and some are Annual Members by virtue of a gift of \$5 or more each year. In addition to its membership, the friends and supporters of the Society are a great host including thousands who make their gifts through their churches and whose names do not appear on our records.

The Society is entirely supported by its members and these unknown friends from whom come not only annual gifts, but legacies and annuity gifts. This is also the group upon whom the Society depends to meet emergency needs, such, for instance, as it now faces in the loss of \$200,000 worth of Bibles and printing plates as the result of the earthquake in Japan last year.

These gifts are an expression of interest in the single purpose of this Society—the circulation of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world in the languages and dialects of the peoples, and without note or comment. To this wide circle of loyal and interested friends we owe an obligation, which we earnestly strive to discharge.

To what extent we have been able to accomplish our task in the past year may be judged by the report given in this issue of the RECORD, which is devoted exclusively to that year's work. In this report will be found a record of the funds and gifts entrusted to us, and an account of our stewardship of these gifts. It will go to all the members of the Society throughout the world in so far as we have their names and addresses. We trust that you will read this account of the year's work in the light of your membership in the Society. It has been done in your name and with your gifts, and we covet on your part an adequate understanding of the extensive and essential nature of the Society's operations.

Your comments on the Society's activities will be very gratefully received, and all suggestions will have the careful consideration of the officers of the Society. We welcome the largest possible interest on the part of the membership of the Society, not only in the general objectives and program, but in the methods by which the work is accomplished.

William D. Hansen
Frank H. Mann

General Secretaries.

The Year 1923 in Figures

ISSUES

	Bibles	Testaments	Portions	Total
Home	319,871	357,961	3,178,367	3,856,199
Foreign	92,565	163,991	2,940,193	3,196,749
Foreign Correspondents	11,175	9,798	27,368	48,341
Totals	423,611	531,750	6,145,928	7,101,289

*CIRCULATION—as reported by the Agencies

AGENCIES HOME	Workers				Volumes			
	†Col.	‡Cor.	¶Vol.	Total	Bibles	Test.	Portions	Total
Colored	22	15	3	40	16,588	18,686	95,828	131,102
Eastern	3	7	29	39	24,224	19,925	223,995	268,144
Atlantic	8	3	—	11	34,127	23,919	225,146	283,192
South Atlantic	7	135	33	175	17,565	20,601	143,431	181,597
Central	9	8	—	17	19,096	24,129	119,144	162,369
Northwestern	3	27	2	32	46,508	61,735	375,032	483,275
Southwestern	4	11	116	131	22,775	26,344	177,610	226,729
Western	11	20	10	41	12,616	15,876	59,027	87,519
Pacific	11	115	134	260	19,404	38,763	222,132	280,299
FOREIGN								
West Indies	43	126	25	194	4,889	3,438	22,416	30,743
Mexico	33	155	45	233	9,366	4,628	22,174	36,168
Caribbean	7	51	—	58	6,229	3,232	37,751	47,212
Upper Andes	3	13	—	16	1,955	1,179	16,608	19,742
La Plata	19	41	—	60	9,884	10,208	56,867	76,959
Brazil	6	148	—	154	8,348	10,694	12,269	31,311
Levant	26	19	—	45	10,480	30,516	46,931	87,927
Arabic Levant	20	4	1	25	5,737	7,842	64,740	78,319
Philippines	10	29	185	224	8,585	9,501	28,543	46,629
Siam	107	—	20	127	142	1,805	187,319	189,266
China	16	450	482	948	22,056	34,386	2,468,575	2,523,017
Japan	16	105	3	124	10,134	56,962	276,492	343,588
Totals	384	1,482	1,088	2,954	310,708	424,369	4,882,030	5,617,107

*The issues of the Society are circulated by various methods, some of which are direct and some indirect. The direct methods are the distribution by our Home and Foreign Agencies and such representatives in fields not covered by the Agencies as receive direct appropriations in funds or books. The indirect methods are the distribution by the Auxiliary Bible Societies, certain missionary boards at home and abroad, the general trade, individuals, etc. Only the circulation effected by the direct method is regularly reported year by year. It is, therefore, impossible to state the complete circulation of the issues of the Society for any one year. It is presumed that sooner or later all the issues of the Society are put into circulation.

†Colporteurs. ‡Correspondents. ¶Volunteers.

Languages and Dialects Used in 1923—175 in All

Classified under Region of Origin

Asia—total 69		Europe—total 44		Africa—total 17		Americas—total 19	
Annamese (Roman)	Sindhi	Albanian	Swedish	Bengal	Philippines:	Arapahoe	
Arabic	Tamil	Bohemian	Welsh	Bulu	Bicol	Arrawack	
Armenian (Ancient)	Telugu	Breton	Yiddish	Dikele	Cebuano	Cherokee	
Armenian (Ararat)	Urdu	Bulgarian	<i>For the Blind</i>		Ibanag	Choctaw	
Armenian (Modern)	Japanese	Croatian	English Braille		Ifugao	Cree	
Cambodian	Javanese	Danish	Moon		Ilocano	Dakota	
China:	Kamu	Dutch	Portuguese-Braille		Jolo (Sulu)	Guarani	
Wenli, High	Khasi	English			Pampangan	Muskogee	
Wenli, Low	Korean	Esperanto			Panayan	Navaho	
Mandarin	Kurdish	Esthonian			Pangasinan	Ojibwa	
Mandarin (Roman)	Arabic Characters	Finnish (Gothic)			Samareno	Quechua-Bolivia	
Mandarin, Phonetic	Kurdish	Finnish (Roman)			Tagalog	Quechua-Ecuador	
Script	Armenian Characters	Gaelic			Ponape (Ascension)	Seneca	
Canton Colloquial	Lao Yuan	German			Ruk (Caroline)	Zapotec	
Fuchow Colloquial	Laotian East	Greek (Ancient)			Sinhalese (Ceylon)		
Fuchow (Roman)	Laotian West	Greek (Modern)					
Hainan Colloquial	Malay-Arabic	Hungarian					
(Roman)	Malay-Baba	Irish					
Hakka Colloquial	Malay-High	Italian					
Hinghua (Roman).	Malay-Low	Julaco-Spanish					
Shanghai Colloquial	Persian	Latin					
Shanghai (Roman).	Shan	Lettish					
Suchow Colloquial	Siamese	Lithuanian					
Suchow, Phonetic	Syriac (Ancient)	Norwegian					
Suchow (Roman)	Syriac (Modern)	Norwegian (Roman)					
Swatow (Roman)	Tai-Lu	Polish					
Hebrew	Talaing (or Peguan)	Portuguese					
India:	Tibetan	Roumanian					
Bengali	Turkish:	Ruthenian					
Gujarati	Arabic characters	Scot-Braid					
Gurmukhi	Armenian characters	Serbian					
Hindi	Greek characters	Slavonic					
Indo-Portuguese	Ya Tai (Siam)	Slovak					
Marathi	<i>For the Blind</i>	Slovenian					
Oriya	Arabic	Spanish					
Pali	Armenian						
Panjabi	Armeno-Turkish						
Sanscrit	Japanese						
	Siamese						

For the Blind
Line Letter
New York Point
New York Point Bipap
American Braille
Revised Braille
Grade 1½

The Story of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-three

THERE is one event in the history of the American Bible Society in the year 1923 which stands out above all others, and that is the "earthquake" in Japan on September 1, 1923. When the first tidings came, anxiety was felt for the representatives of the Society in Tokyo. It was a week or ten days before assurances were received by wireless, of the safety of the Secretary of the Agency and his staff. With this information, which caused a sense of relief, came the utterly overwhelming news of the complete destruction of the Fukuin Printing Company in Yokohama and the death of the general manager, Mr. Muraoka, and fifty or sixty of his employees. The Fukuin Printing Company was an institution of the Far East. It had been built up by the father of Mr. Muraoka, who had created there in the heart of the port-city of Tokyo an establishment covering a considerable tract of ground, employing seven hundred to a

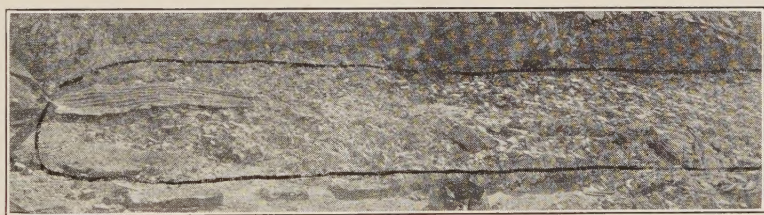
thousand persons, almost entirely given over to the printing of Christian literature, principally the Holy Scriptures, for the American Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland, etc.

Because of the efficiency and spirit of the institution the printing of the Agencies of the American Bible Society not only in Japan but in China, Siam, and the Philippines, had been to a very large extent concentrated in Yokohama. It had become in many respects the most important Bible publishing center in the world. More copies of the Holy Scriptures had gone out from it year by year than from any other city. The first news brought tidings of the entire collapse of the buildings and the death of the workers. Later additional and startling news came that all of the Society's plates for its editions of Japanese Scriptures, certain of its Chinese Scriptures, most of its Siamese Scriptures and the Scriptures in ten or more languages of the Philippines were simply a mass of molten metal.

Thus, in an instant, the work of years and years was annihilated. Measures were taken immediately to reproduce certain Japanese Gospels by photography, and to send them forward as quickly as possible, so that a measure of comfort and of mercy might be available for these stricken people. Telegrams and cables were sent to the Society's Agencies on the Pacific coast, in Manila, in Shanghai, and in Bangkok, to send to Japan all the surplus Japanese stock which they had available in their depositories. Copies of the Japanese Scriptures on hand were also sent from New York.

Careful estimates were made of the probable loss incurred, and the astounding figure of \$289,803 was reached. Bible Sunday was immediately turned into an occasion for setting

forth before the churches and the American people the service which the Society was rendering all over the Far East; appeals for help were sent out; and before



THE REMNANTS OF THE PLATES OF SCRIPTURES IN OVER TWENTY LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS

Within the line is a fused mass of lead from the melted plates for Scriptures in Japanese, Chinese, Siamese, and Philippine languages and dialects; a slab six inches thick and many feet square, the result of the fire that followed the earthquake in the destruction of the Fukuin printing establishment at Yokohama, Japan.

the end of the year a considerable portion of the amount needed was very generously subscribed.

Translation and revision committees were established in the fields, and the burdened Secretaries in Japan and the Philippines heroically undertook to reestablish their work.

Missionaries awoke to the fact that they had been receiving an unmeasured help from the Bible Society, and faced an unmeasured need. Only the beginnings of restoration were possible during the year 1923. The Society still greatly needs the sympathy and support of its entire constituency.

Translation and Revision

The work of the Society during the year in this department of its activities has been tentative and experimental in large measure. There have been only a few pieces of work that have been carried through to accomplishment.

The Committee on Versions, which takes under consideration all these matters, has had before it a very considerable number of sub-

jects that have received their devoted attention. This group of scholarly men, each of them an expert in some particular field, has given unstinted service. Questions concerning the bringing out of new plates of English Bibles have been very much to the fore, as the matter of the accessories of these editions all have to be under the review of the Committee on Versions. Questions of spelling, pronunciation, capitalization, italics, page headings, chapter headings, references, maps, etc., etc., are all exacting problems of detail, which are very often taken for granted by the ordinary user of the Bible. None of these items are allowed to pass by the American Bible Society in any of its editions without the most careful scholarly scrutiny, and hours have been given to these problems during the year, on which as yet no final conclusions have been reached.

The Society has throughout its history been interested in the translation of the Bible or some portion of it into the languages of the North American Indians, the original inhabitants of the United States. During 1923 arrangements have been entered into to assist in the bringing out of the Scriptures in the Cheyenne language.

The Society is concerned not only with those of the United States, but with the Indian tribes of Central America and of South America, for whom so little has been done in general missionary work or in the beginning even of translations into their tongues.

Translation work under the auspices of the Secretary of the Caribbean Agency has been going on in several Indian dialects in three distinct parts of Central America. The Gospel of Matthew is being brought out in a diglot of Valiente and Spanish, to be used in regions adjacent to the Canal Zone. A survey of these needs in South America has been undertaken by the Secretary of the Upper Andes Agency. Steps to have translation work done in the Aymara have been taken. We believe we are at the beginning of a very much-enlarged work in the way of translation among many of these Indian peoples.

The Committee on Yiddish Revision has completed its initial work on the Gospel of Matthew, Gospel of John, and the Epistle to the Hebrews. This is now under editorial observation and forms simply a beginning of an effort to see if there is a need for what might be called an American-Yiddish New Testament, and whether that need can be met; or whether a contribution can be made to a general Yiddish revision that will be acceptable throughout the world.

The Spanish-American New Testament, referred to so frequently during recent years, was

issued during the year, and has gone forth on its errand of mercy.

In Siam Duang Dee's translation of Musso Mark has been completed and awaits only a few finishing touches to be printed; and II Kings in Siamese has been revised.

No progress has been made in the revision of the Old Testament in Japanese, though steps have been taken during the year to bring together a committee for this purpose. The earthquake threw all these plans into confusion, as might be expected.

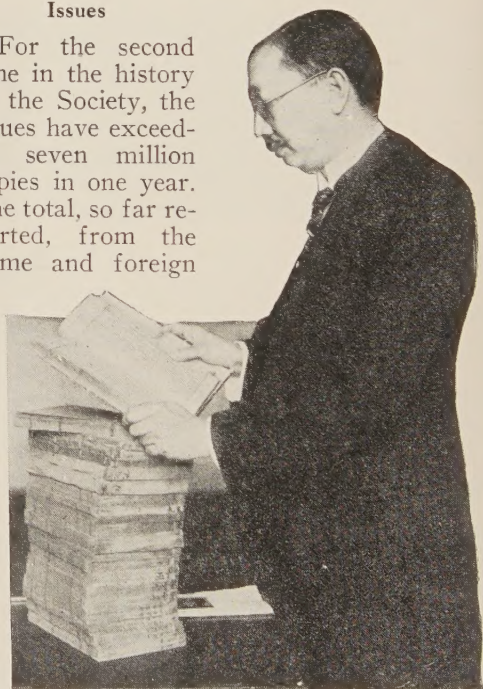
The Gospel of John in Olunyore has been completed for a tribe of people in East Africa, and sent forth on its mission.

The final proof sheets of Dr. Taylor's revision of the Zulu Bible were forwarded during the year, and it is expected that the whole complete revision will be ready this year.

Plans have been approved for the bringing out of Gospels in Otetela and Chimanyika, and revisions in Grebo and Sheetswa.

Issues

For the second time in the history of the Society, the issues have exceeded seven million copies in one year. The total, so far reported, from the home and foreign



THE CHINESE MINISTER AT WASHINGTON
EXAMINING THE FIRST CHINESE BIBLE,
PUBLISHED IN 1823, IN 21 VOLUMES

The centennial of the Morrison translation of the Bible into Mandarin was celebrated under the auspices of the American Bible Society in December, 1923, the Honorable Sao-Ke Alfred Sze, Chinese Minister, being a speaker.

fields is 7,101,289 volumes, as contrasted with 4,563,067 sent out the year before. The great increase was in portions, both in the home field and in foreign lands, the total of portions being 6,145,928. There were 423,611 Bibles and 531,750 Testaments issued.

From the Bible House in New York, 3,856,199 volumes were issued; 934,361 having been sent out for use in foreign lands, 2,901,937 being issued for use in the United States, and 18,334 for use in the island possessions of the United States. The total of issues in foreign lands was 3,245,090 volumes.

Issues of 108 Years

The total issues of the Society in the one hundred and eight (108) years of its service have been ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT MILLION, TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN (158,254,877) VOLUMES.

Distribution in the United States

The American Bible Society openly seeks co-operation with every individual and with every agency for the placing of a Bible in every home in America. "The Whole Bible for the Whole World" means that every individual should have a Bible for his or her very own.

The unthinking person scarcely realizes the great service that Bible Societies have rendered in keeping the Bible out of commercialism. We read in a South American newspaper an advertisement of a Bible for \$68. It has not been so very long since it took a working man's salary for a month to pay for a Bible. Before the era of the printing press, a whole year's salary would scarcely secure a copy of the blessed Word. The American Bible Society publishes Scriptures in 175 different languages, and sells its books without profit. Printed volumes are secured from other Societies and other publishing houses and sold at lowest rates. This makes the Bible the cheapest book in the world—a complete Bible in English for 43 cents and a single Gospel in a neat volume for a cent. The unusually large circulation for the year has resulted from the splendid co-operation of individuals, Auxiliaries, and organizations.

There has been a gradual diminishing of the number of paid colporteurs of the Society. In response to appeals a larger number of churches than ever before have taken up definite Bible circulation. An unusually large number of volunteer workers have responded to the invitation to assist in the work of circulation. There are upwards of 10,000 home missionary workers on part or whole time salary at work in the United States. A more or less successful effort has been put forth to secure the co-operation of these, and a large number have responded. To all these must be accorded a considerable portion of the credit for the work of the year.

The nine established Home Agencies of the Society, each and all, report a decided increase in circulation. The Agency Secretary in his

area directs the work, under the supervision of the Home Office in the Bible House. Each Secretary reports an ever-increasing demand for the Scriptures, always far in excess of his ability to supply with the appropriation at hand.

The full report of the work of the Society is one continued message of appreciation. Only a few excerpts follow:

"Very recently a Christian worker came into our Bible rooms in search of nice Testaments for a young lady to give the members of her Sunday school. This was a class of young boys. After showing him several of our Testaments, we showed him one of our small cheap Bibles. He was so well pleased with the Bible, that he paid the difference out of his own pocket to help the young teacher to give the boys Bibles instead of Testaments."

"I am glad and encouraged as the years go by. This has been one of the most blessed years of my ministry of more than thirty years. I would not give my experiences of the past ten years as colporteur, for ten years in any institution."

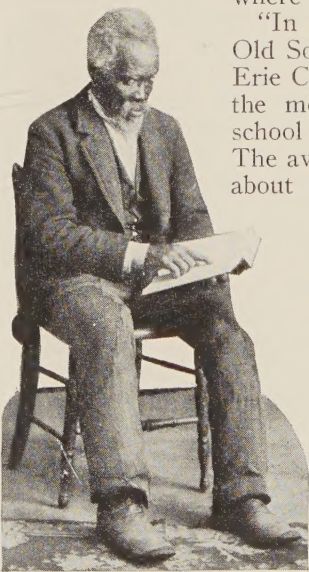
"A deaconess worker writes: 'I am very grateful to you for the gift of the portions and Testaments. I have always felt that I should have some of these with me as I visit in the homes, but I have never been able to purchase them, and have had no other fund from which I could secure them. Thank the Bible Society ever so much for supplying me. I shall try to place every one carefully and prayerfully where it will do good.'"

"In the Ohio Home for Old Soldiers and Sailors in Erie County there is one of the most unique Sunday-school classes in the world. The average of the class of about thirty men is about

eighty - three years. They asked us for large-print Testaments, and received them."

"These missionaries were constantly being asked for the Scriptures in many languages, and found by experience — what all such workers find sooner or later — that the

Bible in the mother tongue of those whom they ministered to was an indispensable instrument



HE LOVES AND READS HIS BIBLE

in establishing contact and sympathy, and that the door into closed hearts was more frequently unlocked by the Bible than through any other means."

"On behalf of the girls we want to thank you for the very nice Bibles you sent. They especially like the size and the large type. They very much appreciate your kindness, as most of the girls did not have Bibles. I enclose a picture of the home."

"From the numerous 'Thank-yous' we have received, we take the following sample of the encouragement we have had from this source: 'The 100 Gospels of John have been received, beautifully packed and in perfect condition. I can't tell you how I thank you for the gift, and assure you that they will be thoughtfully and carefully distributed. Wishing every blessing for you and your work.'"

The total circulation through the Home Agencies mounted up last year to almost double that of its predecessor; 2,104,226 volumes of Scriptures being circulated, as against 1,117,234 in 1922.

Auxiliary Bible Societies

The five state Bible Societies in active co-operation with the American Bible Society distributed practically 300,000 volumes of the Scripture during the year. The great bulk—252,659 volumes—were distributed by the Massachusetts Bible Society, in forty-two languages. The Maine Bible Society did not canvass a whole county as has been its practice; but a band of student workers, employed for a short time, carried the Bible to over 20,000 homes in twenty-four towns and cities which were canvassed. The New Hampshire Bible Society was passing through a change of executive officers, and reports no colportage work for the year, the distribution taking place through depository sales and the mails. In Vermont, a county was carefully canvassed, over 10,000 homes being visited. This work was done in conjunction with the Massachusetts Bible Society. The Maryland Bible Society sold its old Bible House and entered new headquarters, and the work incident to this change temporarily retarded the circulation of the Scriptures, which totaled for the year 25,952. Figures of circulation are not generally available for the smaller Auxiliary Bible Societies, not a few of which have done valuable work in seeking out those within their own bounds who were not supplied with the Scriptures and providing them when desired. As these volumes are usually obtained from the Bible House, they are included in the Issues reported by the Bible House. The work accomplished by Auxiliary Bible Societies forming a part of our Home

Agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Bible Society, the Virginia Bible Society, the Cincinnati Young Men's Bible Society, the Chicago Bible Society, and the California Bible Society, is included in the report of those Agencies.

In Latin America

One of the most important changes during the year has been the moving of the headquarters of the West Indies Agency from Porto Rico to Havana. The importance of the Island of Cuba, the centrality of its location, and the improved shipping conditions have made it seem wise to place the headquarters for the distribution of Scriptures throughout all of the West Indies in this beautiful capital city.

In Mexico, the circulation has been normal. They have in that Agency something that we believe is unusual, in a "waiting list" of colporteurs—ten to twenty all the time. These men could all be employed, if the resources of the Society would permit sufficient books to be placed in their hands. Concerning them, our Secretary writes: "The courage of the soldier is not so noble, not so heroic, as that of the faithful seller of the Word of God."

Early in the year, the house of one of these faithful men was surrounded. When the doors were forced, the man was very calm and said

to his wife, "If they want to kill me, I am ready to die for Christ. I will wait for you in heaven." One of his brave friends came to help him and was also taken off by the mob, and both men were shot at the edge of the village, and the bodies terribly mutilated. Within a month from the time this took place, a companion colporteur of the murdered man was back in that same village offering Bibles and



FELICIANO, THE MARTYR (standing), AND VICTOR, WHO HAS TAKEN UP HIS WORK

Gospels for sale in the market place.

These humble Mexican Christians and their little churches sent over 1,000 pesos as a Bible Sunday gift for the losses in the earthquake in Japan. These offerings came from twenty-five states and the Federal District of the Republic of Mexico, and from eighty-seven congregations, besides fourteen individual givers.

In the countries bordering on the Caribbean

the year has been one of growth. The president of Guatemala, General José M. Orellana, received a company who presented to him a Bible. In accepting the same, the president said: "I highly appreciate the gift you bring me and the work your evangelical missions and churches are doing in our country. You are a powerful element in moralizing and elevating our people." Bible Sunday is becoming more and more a fixed feature on church calendars.

The Secretary writes: "The increased demand for the whole Bible is a fact that ought to encourage the various foreign mission boards, and is a fairly good thermometer for registering the growth of the native churches and missionary work as a whole."

The Bible House in Cristobal, which is increasingly of service to all the Christian workers in Central and South Americas, received during the year the bride of Mr. Gregory, the Secretary. Mrs. Gregory was a missionary lady working in those regions, and therefore is a very helpful collaborer with her husband.

The region from northern Ecuador to northern Argentina is as much in need of, and as open to, missionary work as any field in the world. The Secretary writes: "We cannot help asking in agony of soul how much longer the Christian world is going to remain deaf to the cry of the Inca Indians."

The new translation of the New Testament in the Quechua-Spanish diglot arrived on the field during the year. The Secretary says: "It is the first time in history that an attempt has been made to bring out the whole New Testament in any language of the Andean region other than the Spanish." There have been added to the staff during the year a Mr. and Mrs. McKinney, who are devoting themselves to the circulation of the Scriptures in Bolivia in connection with general missionary work.

Visiting the headquarters of navigation of one of the many rivers of the coastal plain, the Secretary found a strange school at a deserted hacienda. "Without blackboards or maps, desks or conveniences of any kind, we found Eluterio Alvarado, an Ecuadorian who was converted as a result of pondering over a text of Scripture he had heard from the lips of a street preacher, teaching a group of children in the upper room of the bamboo hacienda building. He was using the Spanish Bible as a textbook in reading, and was teaching the children to sing gospel hymns. Some of the pupils were seated on the floor, and others on backless benches. Alvarado and his family live on what the parents of the children send him. The people are very poor; but his one argument to all the inducements to seek a more desirable position is, 'Who will teach these children, if

I leave them?'" The school had literally worn out the Bibles they were using, and a new lot was sent to them from Guayaquil.

The Secretary in the La Plata has traveled widely over his field, lecturing on the work of the Society, endeavoring, as he says, "to get people interested in this most important work of Christianizing South America." He holds to the method of distribution by colporteurs, which is more expensive, but also more efficient. Some of his men are supplied with a horse and buggy, and in that way are enabled to visit the immense Argentine pampas. "What we now need," he writes, "is to visit the far-away places in the interior of the country which have never been touched. This work is tiresome and expensive, but it must be done." A new sub-Agent, Mr. C. L. Chaplin, has been added to the staff. His work is, as the Secretary writes, "usually among the better class of people, who so far have been sadly neglected."

This same old story appeared this year: "We do our best to supply the books that are needed, but very often we are compelled to say, 'No more books left; you will have to wait.'"

One of the correspondents writes to the Secretary, "Little do many of the givers to this noble cause know of the appalling need, and therefore of the great value of the Bibles that we are able to offer through their gifts to the Bible Society."

In one city of 150,000 people, there are 4,000 priests and 3,000 nuns, and yet there are several men in that city who give part of their time to selling the Scriptures. One of these men writes: "We make it a practice, especially in our open-air meetings, to announce the fact that Bibles and New Testaments are obtainable at very low rates in the various gospel centers. During the past year two men have come forward and have purchased copies of the Scriptures. They have now come right out into the light, and are prominently associated with the assembly here."

"One of the Baptist missionaries in this very city writes: 'We do not see how we missionaries could get along without the co-operation that the American Bible Society renders us. When it cannot supply us with the Bibles which we greatly need, we are placed at a decided disadvantage in our work. May the Lord even more richly than ever bless the Society in the splendid work it is doing among us.'"

One good lady in Buenos Ayres has been sending out by mail Gospels in Spanish to three thousand physicians in the interior.

Mr. Penzotti, our Secretary, writes: "I desire to thank God for the inspiration which I received from the continued help and suggestions of my beloved father, who comes to the

office regularly and helps me greatly. His forty years' experience in this work is very valuable."

In the Republic of Brazil, there has been a reduction in the number of Scriptures circulated over the preceding year, which, however, is in part explained by the unusual circulation connected with the Centennial that year.

Dr. Tucker has had to move his headquarters and close the store on the street, which the Society had occupied for twenty years. His office is now on the second floor in a neighborhood with other religious organizations nearby, and Dr. Tucker appeals for money to buy or build a Bible House in the capital city of the republic. He regrets "not having a store opening on a much-frequented street, where the show window and the counter may constantly advertise the Book and serve the public." Forty to fifty thousand dollars would secure a suitable home for the Society in Rio de Janeiro.



AYMARA INDIAN WOMAN TENDING SHOP AND BABY AS SHE SPINS

During the year, the beloved Dr. José Carlos Rodrigues, a distinguished Brazilian gentleman and a great friend of the Bible Society, passed to his reward. He was converted early in life by finding a Bible left by a colporteur in an out-of-the-way farmhouse, as he, a young man, was making a horseback journey to the law school at Sao Paulo. Dr. Rodrigues was well known in all the life of the country, having been for twenty-five years the brilliant editor of *O Jornal do Commercio*, the greatest daily paper in the Portuguese language. During his last illness, Dr. Tucker called several times at the hospital, and one day, in his room, he drew from under his pillow a New Testament, one of the Brazilian Centenary edition issued by the American Bible Society in 1922, and handed it to Dr. Tucker and said, "Read such passages as you think appropriate, and then let

us pray together." The Doctor writes: "We two were not alone. A divine presence filled that sick room, and glory shone around about us." The American ambassador, the Hon. Edwin V. Morgan, was so interested in Dr. Rodrigues and the things that interested him, that he purchased a rather considerable library of valuable works on the Bible and religion which had been accumulated by Dr. Rodrigues, and presented them to a committee of trustees, who will see that they are made available for the use of those interested in Bible studies. This collection is now installed in the building occupied by the Brazil Agency.

Away off in far-away regions in the interior and up the waters of the Amazon, this Agency has carried on its distribution. One worker in the Amazon Valley wrote: "On Christmas night I stopped at a rubber merchant's home on the banks of the river, and there I preached in his front room to a large family and his customers. The owner bought a Bible, but had no cash; so the next morning he sent me a kilo of rubber."

There is nothing more usual than the unusual in the story of the circulation of the Scriptures. A colporteur writes: "In Urusuhy, State of Piahy, I found that the Bible had preceded me. The local priest, seeing that the reading of the New Testament was alienating the people from the practices of his church, made an attempt to gather the Bibles and New Testaments together, in order that he might destroy them and thus destroy their effect. He got a few together and threw them into the Paranahyba River. It happened that a group of young men were bathing in the river, below the place where the Bibles were thrown on the stream. They saw the books floating on the stream, and they rescued them from the water. In place of destroying the effect of the Word of God, this caused the people to open their eyes even more to the truths of the Bible, and prepared their hearts for the preaching of the Word." Sometimes the priests are friendly and assist our colporteurs in their work.

Many foreigners from other lands are coming in as immigrants to Brazil, so that there is a demand for Scripture circulation in Italian, in Syrian and Armenian, in German, in Lettish, and in Japanese.

The total circulation in the Latin-American Agencies during the year amounted to 242,135 volumes.

The Near East and the Far East

The outstanding event of the year in the Near East has been the signing of the treaty of peace by Turkey and the Allied Powers at Lausanne in Switzerland. This has given Turkey a sense of freedom, which she has not possessed in many years. The result for Bible work in the new Turkish Republic is yet in the balance. So far, our Secretary at Constantinople is able to write: "During the year the Levant Agency has had friendly relations with the new Turkish government." These relations, however, do not make for the carrying on of the work of the Society extensively in Asia Minor, as the Christian populations have been more than decimated in those regions, and the Turkish populations are not eager for the Scriptures; in fact, the authorities take the attitude that since the Turks are Moslems, they should be prevented from securing the Scriptures. The Secretary writes: "In Bulgaria and Greece and Syria, progress toward a more settled and satisfactory life seems to have been made." Among the refugees in Greece, a considerable work has been done, especially through the Near East Relief orphanages, to which approximately 17,000 New Testaments and Scripture portions were given for distribution among the orphans and other people.

Unhappily, all the ports of Russia which are available from this region have been closed to the Scriptures. With the extension of the Bolshevik régime into the Caucasus republics, the prohibition on the circulation of the Scriptures has been very rigorously enforced. Southern Russia is likewise closed to any activities of Bible Societies. On the contrary, a happier condition prevails in Greece, and "the Greek government has raised its prohibition against the entry and circulation of Modern Greek Scriptures within its territories."

The Society has suffered severely through the closing of the establishment of an Armenian who had his printing plant in the Bible House in Constantinople. None of the Society's Scriptures or stock were disturbed, as most of it was not kept at the printing plant. Only 4,000 copies which were just off the press were seized, and they were afterward returned. The printer, whose work was most satisfactory, is in need of sympathy, for he has suffered greatly.

The issues of the Levant Agency were 87,927 volumes, a slight decrease from 1922.

The Arabic-speaking regions have been systematically covered from the headquarters in

Cairo, which is proving to be a most satisfactory center for the care of this field. The sub-Agent, who was in Alexandria, writes: "At the close of this, my first year in Cairo, I thank the Society for choosing the capital of Egypt for the depot, instead of Alexandria. I can see in Cairo, much better than in Alexandria, the great effects of the Bible work. In Cairo there are six evangelical churches having pastors and five more under evangelists; whereas in Alexandria there are only two churches, one with a pastor and one with an evangelist. The Christian Endeavor Societies here are working among the young men. Members of the churches here have their own pocket Testaments, and even in the shops one can see the merchants reading from the Bible when they have no customers. The Christians here also help in the distribution of the Bible, both directly by themselves and through our colporteurs, so as to reach the people who are without the Book of God."

The Secretary, Dr. Boyd, writes encouragingly of his entire field—Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Syria.

In Syria, very great interest has been occasioned during the year in the opening of the new American Press at Beirut. In December of 1922, the Press moved from its old restricted quarters into the large new structure known as the Halsey Memorial Building, after the lamented Dr. Halsey, for many years one of the secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. There were great anticipations as to the benefits to come from this new Press, and they have been very decidedly realized. Instead of a total of 44,751 volumes manufactured in 1922, the output this year for the Society is 74,408, an increase of two-thirds. Even yet, their stocks are not restored where they can properly meet the needs of the Agency. "The chief forward step in this department of the work has been the issue of the separate Gospels (unvowelled) in an all-paper dress, at a cost which makes it possible to sell them at two millimes, or one cent. These are already selling beyond the power of the Press to produce them. They are being sent out by the Christians as Christmas gifts. One elder of the Evangelical Church of Minia, Egypt, bought two hundred and sent them, with a 'Merry Christmas' inscribed on them, in lieu of post cards to his friends for the holidays. Who can tell what the effect of this will be!"

The colporteurs in the field have rendered a great service during the year. Interesting incidents have happened. We quote one of these stories: "At Hamath, part of the Tripoli station, in a weekly bazaar to which Moslems

from the whole district come for purchases and sale of country produce, the colporteur was walking among the crowds, crying out his wares: 'Comfort for the sorrowing! Strength for the weak! Cheer for the discouraged! Buy the Word of God.' A Moslem sheikh, hearing his cries, began to walk in front of him, calling on all faithful to beware of the beguiling words of this impostor and infidel. Friends advised the colporteur to slip away and be more quiet; but he said that he meant to keep on, and only increased his crying of his books. The attention and interest of many, who would not otherwise have noticed, was thus attracted, and this unintended advertising led to the rapid sale of his entire stock."

Dr. Boyd visited during the year the Mesopotamia field and the Persian Gulf. This was made possible through the recent opening of a transdesert automobile service between Da-

A special copy of the Arabic Bible, beautifully printed and bound at the Beirut Press, was presented during this journey to King Feisal; and this interesting fact is narrated, that there lies on the king's table, where he keeps the books he really uses, a copy of the Bible, New Testament included, that had been presented to him by the Jews of Bagdad! The Secretary remarks: "Truly a remarkable channel for propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ—from a Jewish community to their Moslem king."

The Sudan also was visited, and two colporteurs sent, one into Dongola Province and the other into the Blue Nile Province.

The circulation for the year amounts to 78,319 volumes, which is a decided advance over that of the preceding year.

In the Philippines, the Japan earthquake had perhaps its most terrific effect, as all the plates

THE OLD
AND THE
NEW WAY OF
TRAVEL ON
A SYRIAN
ROAD



ACROSS
THE DESERT
THERE ARE
NO ROADS
—JUST SAND

mascus and Bagdad, which operates fine powerful American cars in convoys of two or more from each terminus of the route. Instead of the six weeks which caravans have taken for crossing this dreaded Syrian Desert through all the ages past, or the nine days which even the fast "camel-post" required, these subsidized mail-cars dash across in two days. The Secretary writes: "The limits of the space allowed for this 'story' forbid any attempt to dilate upon the sights and impressions of those two days—its trekking tribes of Arabs, its mirages of great lakes and palm-groves, its herds of gazelles racing across the track of the flying cars, its Bedouin guide with his uncanny knowledge of the desert landscape, its silent bivouac under the full moon of mid-autumn two hundred and fifty miles from any human habitation eastward or westward, its half-hour of gossip with the westbound convoy in mid-desert, its rivalry of the Cairo-Bagdad airmail in delivering the mail to Mesopotamia."

and all the Scriptures at Yokohama, in ten Philippine languages and dialects, were totally destroyed. The Secretary has been staggering along under this terrific burden.

In Siam, the Secretary was more fortunate as just before the earthquake a very large shipment of Scriptures had left Yokohama. The problems in Siam have been problems therefore of distribution, and they call for the highest heroism and for great patience. The Secretary calls attention to a new volume that has appeared during the year, by Dr. William Clifton Dodd, entitled "The Tai Race," which gives a vivid picture of the extent, the antiquity, and the present number and character of the Tai people. They are older than the Chinese and were a civilized nation before Abraham. They live under four flags: Siamese, British, Chinese and French. Two-thirds of them are literate and half profess the Buddhist religion; the remainder are animists. The literate Tai use four main scripts: Siamese, Shan, Yuan, and

Lao. Mr. Irwin writes: "This Agency is responsible to see that Scriptures are provided for all the Tai and the hill people living among them, and to put them into their hands, and we are keen to get it done at the earliest moment. We need only money, translators, and colporteurs. The task is not insuperable, though far-flung."

A total of 189,266 volumes are reported as circulated during the year.

Mr. Lacy, writing from China, refers to the dark picture so frequently presented to us in the current press, of bandits and murders and plundering and looting, etc., etc., and then says: "And what shall we say more? Ah, much more! There is a very different picture to be painted. It is of the real China—the China of the millions of common folk who pursue their everyday tasks quietly and cheerfully. It is of the China that goes on building her new commercial and industrial cities, laying broad boulevards, erecting high buildings, organizing vast industries. It is of the China that continues each year to send more of her sons and daughters into schools and colleges, to devise means for educating more of the masses, and to train more youths for useful vocations. It is of the real China that is after all practically religious—on the one hand reviving every sort of temple worship and pilgrimage, the heart yearning after something higher; and on the other hand initiating new expressions of the religious life in social service and personal consecration to great causes. China, in the midst of anarchy and distress, yet pursues an orderly course for her hundreds of millions of people, and in this sadly disordered year has turned with interest and enthusiasm to the gospel message."

In the midst of this new China, the Society's work has been really wonderful. The circulation for the year amounts to 2,525,017 volumes—an advance over last year of more than half a million.

The Secretary writes: "This increased output of Scriptures cannot be accounted for in any particular section. It is nation-wide. With the exception of a diminished circulation of a few thousand in the fearfully distraught province of Szechuen, every region reports a larger work than in the previous year."

The China Agency suffered with all the Far East in the Yokohama earthquake, but not so seriously as its neighbors. Fortunately, many of the Chinese plates destroyed were of Scriptures no longer in current use, and for most of them duplicate shells were held in Shanghai.

One of the fascinating stories told during the year was that of a "well-known Canton professor, who was captured in a bandit raid on a train with many others. His bag was

opened, and its contents strewn on the car floor. A fellow-passenger, who escaped, picked up a neat New Testament which bore the scholar's name. It was returned to his father, and later sent to him in captivity. From it he taught a lad who was his fellow-prisoner in bonds. When they were separated, the precious book was broken apart and each retained a portion—one for comfort, the other for instruction in the new faith. After months of exile, the teacher was released and now faithfully administers a Christian school for boys committed to his leadership." Stories like this could be repeated from all the sub-Agencies.

The whole world has sympathized with the sufferings in Japan. The first day of September, 1923, will never be forgotten. Not only were the offices of the Society in Tokyo totally destroyed, but a far more serious and overwhelming disaster was the entire destruction, and in a moment, of the plant of the Fukuin Printing Company at Yokohama, and the death of Mr. Muraoka, the manager and son of the founder, and a very large number of his employees. In this plant were kept the plates of the versions of the Scriptures in use in Japan, in China, Siam, and the Philippines. The loss to all the Far East was not only the financial loss, but a stoppage of work; for there were no resources for reproducing immediately the large editions needed. Fortunately, the Secretary, Mr. Aurell, and his family and the clerks in the Tokyo office were spared, and by the courage of the manager of the Tokyo office, Mr. Tanaka, the books were placed in the safe, even during the earthquake, and the safe locked, so that the records of the Society were preserved.

This is not the place to recount the labors undergone to attempt a new beginning in the midst of this disaster; but the attempt was made. Special editions of the Gospels were produced by photography and sent forward from New York; Japanese Scriptures from all the Agencies bordering on the Pacific and from the Bible House in New York were forwarded immediately to Tokyo, and the Secretary, Mr. Aurell, gave himself unstintedly to the bewildering program of rehabilitation. An office was opened in the midst of the débris in Tokyo, in a "shack" erected for the purpose. Colportage went forward with new vigor. He writes: "The personal visit of the devoted colporteur to the homes of the people in city, town, and country, has again proven to be *the* blessed way of obtaining a wide circulation and an increased reading of the sacred page."

Many instances could be given of the comfort of the Bible to those smitten in the earthquake. A Japanese nurse wrote: "For five

nights I slept outdoors and did not get back to the ruins until the sixth. Being already out of the house, I could not save any of my belongings—only, most happily, I had a copy of the Bible with me. At this time what gave me comfort was the Bible. The Lord caused the moon to shine and commanded me 'Be still and fear not. From now you have many opportunities for service. Be of firm faith!'"

Strangely enough, in the midst of all this confusion, in spite of all these difficulties, the circulation for the year amounted to 343,588 volumes—an increase of 100,000 volumes over 1922.

In Other Lands

Through its grant of funds and books, the Society has furthered the distribution of God's Word in various countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa, where it has not its own representatives. At the request of the New York headquarters, the Rev. Arthur C. Ryan, Secretary of the Levant Agency, visited the repre-

volumes of Scriptures were circulated last year, and many conversions are taking place.

A brief and grateful letter comes from Denmark, where the circulation was mainly in complete Bibles.

Details of the work have not been received from Germany, but a circulation of 21,482 volumes of Scripture is reported, 6,507 being complete Bibles.

From Czechoslovakia comes a further word of cheer and large results. Colporteurs are receiving permission from officials to offer Scriptures to men under them in their offices; Catholic priests have purchased Bibles; regions which formerly were very antagonistic are now welcoming the colporteur and his wares; railway trains are offering fine opportunities for the distribution of the Scripture; the director of a bank, who proved to be a Jew, not only granted the colporteur permission to visit the workers in the bank, but went with him from room to room, urging all to purchase Bibles.

NEWCOMERS FROM EUROPE ARE WELCOMED WITH THE SCRIPTURES IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



MISS MAURER AND EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS AT ANGEL ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO

sentatives of the Societies in Europe which act as correspondents of the American Bible Society and receive grants from it. This visitation appears to have been much appreciated by these correspondents and will help the Board of Managers to a better knowledge of the conditions and work.

From the Bible Society of France comes word of the crippling of its work by the loss of its honored director, Dr. Bertrand, through ill health; and by the fall in exchange which has seriously affected the Society in paying for Scriptures printed for it in Switzerland. Nevertheless, work has been accomplished, one feature of which is quite peculiar to this society; namely the giving of a Bible or New Testament at each marriage and each first communion to those desiring them.

The Belgian Gospel Mission reports most encouraging interest in the Bible and in its religious services generally. The military head of the West Point of Belgium, in response to a remark that a revival was needed, said, "That revival has already begun." Over half a million

The Evangelical Society of Geneva, which does most of its work in France and Belgium, during the year absorbed the Bible Society of Geneva, organized in 1814, under circumstances commending themselves to the management and constituency of both societies. It reports considerable opposition from priests both in France and Belgium, but gladly records exceptions; and its workers found opposition among the laity also, but an increasing welcome for the Scriptures. At Marseilles, a colporteur distributed 24,000 Gospels at the Colonial Exposition.

The spokesman for the Methodist Episcopal Mission in Italy sends grateful thanks for the aid received. The welcome accorded the Scriptures in Italy seems more general and more hearty.

Similar testimony about the welcome to the Scriptures in Italy comes from the Waldensian Society, which rejoices that "the distribution is not, thank God, made on barren ground," and illustrates this claim by mentioning particularly a medical student, a professor in a high school,

a rich merchant, and a magistrate, who had not only received the Bible, but accepted its message and rejoiced in distributing copies.

From the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church, in India, comes word that they are "stressing Scripture distribution more and more; and in all parts of India today, the people are more interested in the teachings of Christ than ever before. Gandhi continued to read the Bible every day while in jail, and his interest in the Master's teachings has undoubtedly influenced many others to study the wonderful good news of salvation."

Workers

The total of workers, counting volunteers, has risen to 3,000—the largest number recorded in our history. Of this large total, 387 were colporteurs, 1,493 correspondents, and 1,120 volunteers. The 21 Agency Secretaries are not included in this number. Of the total, 746 helped circulate the Scriptures in the United States, and 2,254 in foreign lands. To

for its current work, which, it was felt, must be carried on on the same scale as before.

Before the end of the year very gratifying returns had come in from the appeals made to the Society's friends; and it was a matter of great encouragement to find that there had not been any decrease in the usual gifts as the result of the special appeal. It is too early now to make a report of the complete returns. There is every reason for gratitude for the fine spirit of generosity shown by our friends for the earthquake losses.

It seemed wise, in connection with this unusual loss suffered by the Society, to make use of the Bible Sunday program in bringing these matters to the attention of the churches throughout the country. Inasmuch as Bible Sunday came on the second Sunday of December, and the full information about the Society's losses was not available until the early part of October, it was necessary to proceed with great haste in the preparation of the

BANGKOK COLPORTEURS
AND OFFICE FORCE OF SIAM
AGENCY WITH REV. ROBERT
IRWIN, SECRETARY



the zeal and activity of these widely scattered workers is due largely the unusual circulation of God's Word accomplished during the year.

Ways and Means

The severe losses suffered by the Society as the result of the Japanese earthquake in September threw a heavy burden of responsibility upon the Ways and Means Committee. It was some time before it was possible to get accurate figures of the losses, so that it was not until toward the end of the year that appeals could be made for funds. The first estimate of the loss was \$289,803, but the final analysis of the reports from the field received in part by cable and in part by letter showed a net loss of approximately \$200,000. It appeared possible to abandon some of the editions and to get the new plates made at a more reasonable price than had been anticipated.

The problem that presented itself was not alone the matter of raising the special fund, but of raising it in such a way that it would not cut in upon the normal resources of the Society

material and the forwarding of it to the ministers. It seemed best not to depend upon advertising the occasion in the church papers, but to send actually the material to the ministers of all denominations without waiting for them to request it. The Society's funds did not permit of the circularizing of the entire body of ministers connected with the constituency of the Society, so that a careful selection was made and about 70,000 ministers were supplied with material.

The material consisted, first, of a 16-page pamphlet: "The Bible Remaking the Orient." It was prepared by Doctor J. L. McLaughlin, who had spent twenty years or more in the Orient, a large part of that time as Agency Secretary of the Society in the Philippines. His statement of the case was very graphically made and highly commended everywhere.

A companion piece printed in color and for general distribution among the people was also furnished. This was entitled "Bible Losses and Needs in Stricken Japan."

One of the inspiring and encouraging features in the responses to the appeals has been the collections taken in distant mission stations and forwarded to the Society for the needs of stricken Japan. Practically every part of the world has participated, and the most remote stations have had their share in the rebuilding of the Bible program in the Far East.

The receipts from the churches throughout the country, while not so much as estimated at the beginning of the year, are slightly in excess of those of the preceding year. There has been a steady increase in the gifts from churches of practically all denominations.

Gifts from individuals direct, apart from what was given through the churches, show a very substantial increase over the preceding year. Several thousand new friends were made whose interest and friendship were expressed in an initial gift.

One of the most outstanding increases during the year was that of gifts made on the annuity plan, known among some denominations as "Conditional Gifts." It is the policy of this Society to receive gifts of \$100 or more under an agreement to pay a given rate of annuity, based on the age, during the lifetime of the donor. A total of \$321,000 was contributed to the Society last year on this basis and is far in excess of the amount ever received in a twelve-month period at any time during the Society's history.

The total receipts from legacies, even apart from the large legacy received from the estate of Mrs. Russell Sage, was in excess of the anticipated amount, and made it possible for the Society to put into operation the so-called "Legacy Equalization Fund," by which it is hoped to stabilize the amount of money available each year from legacies.

Both the religious and the secular press have shown a deep interest in the Society's work, and the reports of achievements and incidents of interest which have been released from time to time for publication, have been very widely used throughout the country.

Finances

The total receipts for the year amount to \$1,804,282.14; from invested funds, \$166,639.39; from legacies, \$652,389.00, of which \$549,242.18 were received from the Sage Estate; from living donors, including churches, individuals, and Auxiliaries, \$424,218.27; from the sale of books, \$510,421.73; net income from Bible House \$33,578.47; and income from miscellaneous sources, \$17,035.28.

The total expenditures during the year in all the Agencies and departments of the Society's work were \$1,778,181.83. Of this amount

\$543,999.94 were spent in the manufacture, purchase, and distribution of Scriptures in the United States of America; and \$411,614.55 were expended in the translation, manufacture, purchase, and distribution of the Scriptures on the foreign field including grants to countries in which the Society has no Agencies. The Society's indebtedness was paid in full.

The complete account of these financial transactions with details, balances, etc., will appear in the Annual Report of the Society.

Trust Funds

During the year \$2,561.01 were added to the Permanent Trust Funds of the Society, which, including the endowment, amount to \$1,619,615.94. Also, \$25,000 were added to the Permanent Trusts created for specific purposes. The total amount of these special purpose trusts is now \$384,825.88.

Reserve funds for general purposes created by the Board of Managers now amount to \$131,390.54. There are also Reserve Funds for special purposes, created by the Board, of \$21,900.

The total of all funds on December 31, 1923, was \$2,157,732.36.

Sage Fund

By decision of the Appellate Division in interpreting the intention of Mrs. Russell Sage the position of the executors was upheld. The Society thereupon participated in several distributions of her estate and received in all the sum of \$549,242.18.

This legacy enabled the Society to pay off its debts to the banks, which were contracted during the war period as a result of enlarged work and the increased cost of manufacturing materials. At the present time, therefore, the Society is free and clear of all debt, due to the very generous gift made to it by this philanthropic and large-hearted lady.

By action of the Finance Committee, approved by the Board of Managers, it was decided that in accordance with Mrs. Sage's wish expressed in her will, the \$500,000 given by her to the Society as an endowment fund shall be known hereafter as "The Margaret Olivia Sage Endowment Fund in memory of her husband Russell Sage."

Manufacturing Program

The program of discontinuing manufacturing in the Bible House, which was begun in 1921, was carried on to fuller completion by the dismantlement of the Society's bindery. This has involved pensioning all those in the employ of the Society who were over sixty years of age, and the granting of extra pay and bonuses to those who had been in the employ of the Society for any considerable time.

A contract was entered into with the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky, to do certain printing of Scriptures for the blind, and the presses used for this work were removed from the building. The removal of this machinery, and the sale of certain bindery machinery, has resulted in a very material reduction of the insurance rates in the Bible House.

The larger price list, after careful study, was reduced to sixty-four pages, without omitting anything of importance. The new list, with the

Publication Committee, by the Board, for preparing new sets of plates. A study of the English plates made during the different decades from 1850 to 1920 showed that whereas an average of three or four English Bibles had been set each decade from 1850 to 1900, that none had been set up since then. With these funds available, the Publication Committee is now in a position to prepare Center Reference Bibles, Bibles in bold face type, and such other new books in English and foreign languages as appear especially needed.

One-cent Portions

During the year editions totaling 3,600,000 one-cent portions of the Gospels, Acts, and Proverbs, in English, and the Gospels and Proverbs in Spanish were printed.

The production of these books accounts in a part for the substantial increase in the number of portions distributed during the year.

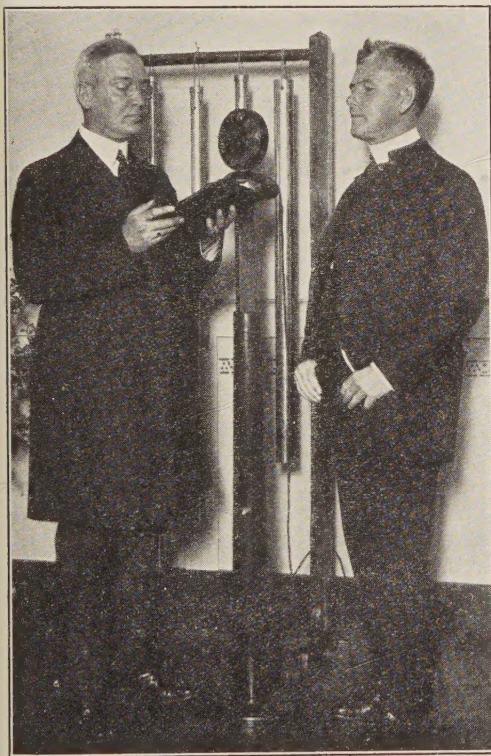
Japan Earthquake

In order to meet the need for the Scriptures in Japanese after the earthquake, 500,000 copies of the Gospels of St. Mark and St. John were produced in New York by the offset process. They were manufactured and shipped with the greatest speed possible, and are now meeting a very real need in Japan. From its stock of Scriptures in the Bible House, the Society was able to send over 30,000 volumes to Japan. This did not include the stock in San Francisco, which was also of considerable size, and reached Japan before the stock from New York. Also, 1,000 reams of Bible paper of standard size was forwarded promptly after the earthquake.

An interesting study made during the year of the various groups of Scriptures manufactured by this Society shows that whereas they had increased about 200 per cent. in cost since 1909, the Scriptures imported from the British and Foreign Bible Society, and other Bible publishers of Europe, had increased 231 per cent., while the Scriptures of the Foreign Agencies of this Society had increased 248 per cent. This is especially interesting in view of the depreciation of European exchange, and further reflects results secured in standardization and improvements in manufacturing costs.

Bible House

Although many different pieces of property were looked at as possible sites for a new Bible House further uptown, no suitable location was found. It was therefore decided to install three new electric elevators in the Bible House, and to change over certain sections of the building, formerly used for manufacturing, into offices, on the third and sixth floors of the building. It was also decided to discontinue the high-



PUBLISHING THE SCRIPTURES BY RADIO

Bishop Leonard, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Dean Gresham, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at the Radio Station of Hale Bros., from which a passage of Scripture is sent out every noon by a committee from the various churches in San Francisco, under the direction of the Rev. A. W. Mell, Agency Secretary of the American Bible Society.

shorter English and Foreign lists, which were also revised, has proved to be satisfactory, though in a few small details it may be still subject to refinement.

Improvements in binding and presswork were carried on under the able assistance of Mr. David S. Jillson. The elimination of a considerable number of Scriptures for which the demand was falling off was also carried forward by disposing of the stocks on hand.

As a result of this reduction in the inventory, and also by the sale of certain manufacturing equipment, funds were made available to the

pressure power plant by which all the electric light and power in the building was generated. This not only made available additional space in the cellar for storage of Scriptures, but also resulted in over 50 per cent. reduction in the number of persons employed in the engine room, and in the amount of coal consumed. While considerable expense was involved, all of the space so far developed into offices has been rented; and in this way part of the space vacated by the manufacturing department has been utilized and is producing an income. It can also no longer be said that the elevators in the Bible House are "delightfully mid-Victorian."

Bible Society Record

The increased circulation anticipated in the 107th Report took place during the year by the addition of the names of all donors of sums of one to five dollars. This brought the total monthly issues to 17,000.

The January issue was devoted to a review of the budget and the plans for the new year, 5,000 extra copies being printed for special use. The June issue contained the annual story of the previous year in brief. Three other issues were in part devoted to special purposes. The July number contained the record of the annual meeting, made unique by the invitation of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, leading to the holding of the meeting at Sagamore Hill, in the historic Trophy Room, so alive with memories and souvenirs of President Roosevelt. The September number was in part a memorial to President Harding; while the December RECORD was particularly devoted to Japan, the earthquake, and its effects on the work in the Far East.

Other Publications

The usual 2,000 copies of the *Annual Report* were printed in the fall, while 15,000 of the brief "Managers' Report" were issued earlier in the year.

Of the popular leaflets, 300,000 copies of the four-page leaflet on the earthquake losses in Japan was the largest, the next being 192,000 of the bookmark with the instructions "How to Open a New Bible," and 155,000 of the leaflet "The Bible for the World." Of the nineteen pamphlets and leaflets, large and small, printed during the year, a total of 1,135,750 copies were issued.

Auxiliary Bible Societies

During the year ten Auxiliary Bible Societies, which had ceased to function, were removed from the roll, leaving 123 Auxiliaries in twenty-seven states now helping the world work of the American Bible Society, in addition to such work as they do in their local communities.

Conclusion

Wars and rumors of wars, banditry and disorganization, turmoil and confusion, earthquakes unprecedented, come, and yet the Word of God stands unshaken, and the world longs for it and reaches out for it as never before.

Shall we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
Shall we to men benighted
The Lamp of Life deny?

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, JULY 1924

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
Bible House, Astor Place, New York

THE American Bible Society was instituted in 1816 with the sole object of encouraging wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment.

Its program is world-wide and includes the translation of the Scriptures into the languages and common dialects of the people; the publication of the Scriptures in styles suitable and convenient, and at the lowest possible cost; the distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world at cost or free, as a missionary program.

Membership in the Society consists of three classes, each with its special privileges:

1. Annual Members are constituted by an annual subscription of \$5.00.
2. Life Members are constituted by a subscription of \$50.00 at one time.
3. Life Directors are constituted by a subscription of \$150.00 in one or two payments.

Handsome engraved certificates are presented to Life Directors and Life Members.

The Society is supported by the gifts of its members and friends and by the contributions of Christian churches with which the Society has official or semi-official relations.

Full information about the privileges of Membership will be sent on application.

HOW TO SEND MONEY BY MAIL

Your money may be lost if you enclose in an ordinary letter silver coin, bills or postage stamps.

THE SAFE WAY IS ONE OF THESE FOUR:

1. Register the letter in which you send bills or postage stamps. Any postmaster will register a letter for ten cents.
2. Send the money by Bank check or draft.
3. Send it by an Express Company's money order.
4. Send it by a Post-office money order.

Whichever way is chosen, address the letter and make the check, draft, or order, payable to Gilbert Darlington, Treasurer, Bible House, Astor Place, New York.

CASH RECEIPTS IN MAY, 1924

LEGACIES

Burr, Wm. A., late of Volusia County, Fla.....	\$5,000 00
Sarven, James D., late of Tarrytown, N. Y.	130 22
	<u>\$5,130 22</u>

GIFTS SUBJECT TO LIFE INTEREST

Amount received during the month	\$15,062 50
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AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

	Rec'd on Donation Account	Rec'd on Book Account
Alabama		\$ 12 80
Buffalo City & Erie Co., N. Y.	1,150 24	
Cedarville, Ohio... \$150 00	18 00	
Charleston, S. C. ... 300 00	56 25	
First Welsh, of Blue Earth Co., Minn.	80 00	26 37
Livingston Co., N. Y.		5 08
Long Island, N. Y.		6 66
Maryland	239 89	
Massachusetts	300 00	
New Bedford, Mass.	7 17	
New Hampshire...	7 23	
New York	783 20	
St. Louis, Mo.....	184 20	
Ulster Co., N. Y.		1 05
United Bible Society, Eastern Allen Co., Kans...	40 00	
Utica and Vicinity, Welsh, N. Y.	200 00	
York Co., S. C.	50 00	

Received on Donation Account....	\$2,798 19
	820 00
	<u>\$3,618 19</u>

HOME AGENCIES

Atlantic	\$ 4,678 78
Central	2,656 38
Colored People of U. S. A.	2,074 55
Eastern	3,268 25
Northwestern	4,751 43
Pacific	3,719 91
South Atlantic.....	1,829 81
Southwestern	3,520 40
Western	1,900 00

\$28,399 51

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

American Tract Society, N. Y.	\$75 00
From Home Agencies and Included in Home Agencies Receipts	
Donations from Auxiliary Societies:	
Pennsylvania, Phila., Pa.	\$ 345 66
Female Bible Society, Philadelphia, Pa.	20 00
Belvedere Bible Society, N. J.	176 00
Johnstown, Ladies Bible Society, Pa.	225 00
Brooklyn Bible Society, Brooklyn, N. Y.	250 00
Gifts from Churches.....	1,034 96
Gifts from Individuals....	259 04
Japan Earthquake Account—Church, \$20; Individual, \$11	31 00

RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$ 5,130 22
Gifts Subject to Life Interest	15,062 50
Auxiliary Societies on Donation Account	820 00

Auxiliary Societies on Book Account

Book Account	\$ 2,798 19
Home Agencies	28,399 51
Returns from Scriptures Donated	75 00
	<u>\$52,285 42</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

Bible House Rentals.....	\$ 9,177 49
Bible Society Record.....	2 00
Diffusion of Information...	7 40
Funds Received for Transmission	100 00
General Salaries and Expenses	319 80
Gifts for Distribution to the Blind from Individuals	2 50
Gifts from Churches.....	15,305 69
Gifts from Individuals....	7,843 28
Income from Available Investments	17 21
Income from Securities Payable Beneficiaries...	658 01
Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds.....	20 00
Japan Earthquake Account— from Churches, \$519.05; from Individuals, \$2,185.14.....	2,704 19
Manufacturing Credits..	260 67
Scriptures to the Blind...	105 83
The Trade.....	759 58
	<u>\$37,283 65</u>

Total Cash Receipts... \$89,569 07

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Liberty Bonds, etc., received as Gifts Subject to Life Interest.....	<u>\$42,000 00</u>
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CASH STATEMENT FOR MAY, 1924

GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Balance from April, 1924.....	\$ 41,660 55	Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses..	\$ 2,275 31
Auxiliaries	2,798 19	General Salaries and Expenses.....	4,968 03
The Trade	759 58	Bible House Expenses—Taxes, Repairs, Fuel, Insurance, etc.	4,793 04
Scriptures to the Blind.....	105 83	Exchange Paid	13,345 44
Manufacturing Credits	260 67	Remittances to Home Agencies.....	11,622 46
Bible House Rentals.....	9,177 49	Remittances to Foreign Agencies.....	18,256 85
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	820 00	Bible Society Record.....	28 80
Legacies	5,130 22	Pensions	208 33
Gifts from Churches.....	15,305 69	Income Payable to Beneficiaries.....	4,096 36
Gifts from Individuals.....	7,843 28	Diffusion of Information.....	2,115 28
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	2 50	Legacy Expenses	30 00
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	75 00	Library	29 94
Bible Society Record.....	2 00	Translation and Revision.....	6 00
Home Agencies	28,399 51	Appeals	4,997 68
Interest on Available Funds.....	17 21	Income Available—Interest on Loans, etc..	19 14
Investments Subject to Life Interest.....	658 01	Cash Reserved for Publication Dept.....	5,000 00
Annuity Account.....	15,062 50	Church Budget Costs.....	702 37
Trust Funds—Income.....	20 00	Japan Earthquake Fund.....	9 82
Diffusion of Information.....	7 40	Plate Account	478 58
General Salaries and Expenses.....	319 80	Real Estate	10,991 15
Japan Earthquake Fund.....	2,704 19	U. S. Trust Co.—Annuity Account for Investment	20,782 42
Funds for Transmission.....	100 00	Funds for Transmission.....	100 00
		Gifts from Individuals.....	2 12
		Insurance Paid in Advance.....	8,220 60
		Balance to June, 1924.....	18,149 30
	<u>\$131,229 62</u>		<u>\$131,229 62</u>

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance May 1, 1924.....	\$38,263 47	Publication Department	\$42,141 51
Transferred from General Cash.....	5,000 00	Balance June 1, 1924.....	1,121 96
	<u>\$43,263 47</u>		<u>\$43,263 47</u>

Total Cash Balance.....\$19,271 86

Would a 9% Annuity Interest You?

FOR many persons the safety of an investment is the most important feature. That is one reason why so many persons put their money in Savings Banks. They are afraid, and justly so, of the many investment schemes which have been devised to catch the unwary. The same reason prompts them to invest in Liberty Bonds, mortgages and other conservative securities. In these cases, safety is assured, but the interest rate is low; and people are willing to sacrifice high rates in favor of assurance of safety.

It is not necessary, however, to make such a sacrifice, for there is an investment just as safe as any of these where the rate is much higher—sometimes twice as high, depending on the age of the investor. This form of investment is known as the annuity bond. It is not new, but has been available for more than half a century. It has elements of safety greater than most securities and has many advantages which other securities do not possess at all.

In addition to the safety and attractive income, it is also permanent, convenient, non-taxable; never depreciates in value, eliminates expense, banishes anxiety, removes burdens.

One happy owner of these bonds recently said—"I am the fortunate possessor of two of your annuity bonds. It is a great satisfaction—the freedom from care in regard to the income from it is a great relief. The check comes promptly to the day, and I do not need to give a thought to that part of it."

There are two principal forms of annuity bonds. One is the bond in which only one person is involved, and the rates for different ages are given below.

The other form is known as the Survivorship Bond. In this bond, two or more persons are mentioned as annuitants and the amount is paid as long as either person mentioned in the bond shall live. Where two persons, dependent one upon the other, desire to protect each other with annuity payments, this is an excellent and popular form of bond. Rates on this type of bond will be cheerfully furnished on request. Some form of annuity bond can be designed to meet the needs of practically every investor.

LIFE ANNUITY RATES
(ONE PERSON)

Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
1 to 30	4.0%	51	5.6%	63	6.8%	72	8.2%
31 to 40	4.5%	52	5.7%	64	6.9%	73	8.3%
41	4.6%	53	5.8%	65	7.0%	74	8.4%
42	4.7%	54	5.9%	66	7.1%	75	8.5%
43	4.8%	55	6.0%	67	7.2%	76	8.6%
44	4.9%	56	6.1%	68	7.3%	77	8.7%
45	5.0%	57	6.2%	69	7.4%	78	8.8%
46	5.1%	58	6.3%	70	7.5%	79	8.9%
47	5.2%	59	6.4%	71	8.1%	80	9.0%
48	5.3%	60	6.5%	Over 80—9.0%			
49	5.4%	61	6.6%				
50	5.5%	62	6.7%				

In determining age reckon from nearest birthday.

By filling out the coupon below, you will receive without cost and without obligation on your part, an attractive booklet, "Bibles and Bonds," which will tell you how and why annuity bonds are safe, convenient, permanent, non-taxable, and will explain other advantages which these bonds possess over the average investment.

The American Bible Society has been selling its annuity bonds for more than half a century without loss to a single one of its hundreds of investors.

Some time ago, one of the annuitants wrote as follows:—"I am very much pleased with the Bible Society annuity bonds. The annuity is always promptly paid, and it is a satisfaction to know that if the bonds should be lost the interest would still be paid, and I have perfect confidence in the security of the money invested."

Annuity bonds are sold in any denomination from \$100.00 up. They give the small as well as the large investor the opportunity to participate in the financial benefits of the bonds and in the world-wide service of the Society.

SEND THIS COUPON NOW!

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
Bible House, New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Please send me without obligation on my part your booklet No. 621, entitled "Bibles and Bonds."

Name

Address